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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1959

1959

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. F.L. Damment

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

H.W. Costiff Esq.,

COUNCILLORS:

Lord Cadman,
Mrs. F.L. Damment,
Mrs. D. Dillamore,
J.J.E. Pilson Esq.,
R.B.A. Turney Esq.,
R.G. Yeowart Esq.,

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.F.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

F.L. O'Rourke, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. Meredith, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
Linslade.

20th May, 1960

To the Chairman and Members of
Linslade Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

The Birth Rate, although down from the previous year,
still remains higher than the County rate and that for the
rest of the Country.

The Death Rate shows a satisfactory drop and is now
nearly 2½ points lower than the rate for the Country as a
whole. Of the 36 deaths, 23 were due to Heart and Allied
Diseases and Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 14.9 compares favourably
with the County Rate of 18.4 and the rate of 22.0 for the rest
of the Country.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was carried on during
the year. The response from the older age groups was poor.
The Minister has recently extended the age limit to 40, so
it is hoped that a good response from these new age groups
will show a good example to the "teenagers" and young adults.

Once more I should like to record another year of
pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Uphill, your
Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Meredith, and their
staffs.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

D.H. WALDRON.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL	1958	1959
Area in acres	1,693	1,693
Population	3,740	3,760
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,303	1,314
Rateable Value	43,229	51,792
Rate in the £	21/-	22/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£178	£205
2. BIRTHS		
Legitimate (Male)	36	29
" (Female)	38	37
Illegitimate	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	20.1	17.8
" " " " " (Bucks)	17.3	17.6
" " " " " (England & Wales)	16.4	16.5
3. DEATHS		
Males	24	23
Females	20	13
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.4	9.3
" " " " " (Bucks)	9.8	9.7
" " " " " (England & Wales)	11.7	11.6
Still Births	1	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	14.9
" " " (Bucks)	Nil	.25
" " " (England & Wales)	0.43	.38

4. INFANTILE MORTALITY

1958 1959

Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births	Nil	14.9
" " " " " " " (Bucks)	16.4	18.4
" " " " " (England & Wales)	22.5	22.0

5. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

1958

1959

	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	5	3	8	3	3	6
Diabetes	1	1	2	0	0	0
Haemorrhage into Nervous System	1	5	6	2	3	5
Heart Diseases	7	3	10	8	4	12
Pneumonia	1	1	2	2	1	3
Bronchitis & Other Respiratory Diseases	3	0	3	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	0	1	1	2	0	2
Congenital Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide & Accidents	3	3	6	2	0	2
All other causes	2	3	5	4	2	6
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	24	20	44	23	13	36
	—	—	—	—	—	—

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

For general cases, accidents and infectious disease, two motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at the Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the second and fourth Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session. Attendances by children during the year numbered 879.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals received cases from the area:-

Royal Bucks, Aylesbury
Tindal, Aylesbury
Isolation, Aylesbury
Luton & Dunstable
Spittlesea, Luton.

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

63,734,000 gallons of water were abstracted during the year, showing an increase on the previous year of 7,885,000 gallons. This increase can be largely accounted for by the heavy demand occasioned by the long dry summer. The undertaking fulfilled its commitments and at no time were restrictions imposed. On one particular day in June the demand rose to 200,000 gallons, compared with an average daily demand of 175,000 gallons. The official number of garden hose-pipes increased during the year from 67 to 90. In addition, 11 new dwellings were completed and grants were approved towards the installation of baths, wash hand basins and waterclosets in 8 other dwellings. The year's total abstraction was once again taken from No.3 borehole, which had been in continual use since February 1957. The submersible pump in the borehole continued to give first class service, though perhaps it was inevitable that towards the end of the year its efficiency began to decline. Standby arrangements became more than ever necessary, and a decision was made to sink a new borehole.

In order to improve the service in the Southcott area of the Town, a small bulk supply was taken from the mains of the Bucks Water Board in Wing Hill. In addition to the above abstraction, 1,814,000 gallons were taken through this bulk supply during the period April to December.

During the year, a regular check was kept on the quality of the water being distributed and precautionary chlorination continued. Of 124 samples taken from the Council's mains and submitted for bacteriological examination, 6 returned unsatisfactory results and 2 were suspicious. The unsatisfactory samples were taken during a period when the chlorination apparatus was unserviceable. In addition to the above, 2 samples taken from a shallow well supplying an isolated dwelling were both satisfactory.

1304 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and eight by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.8% of the population of the district received water from the public supply.

Chemical Examinations of samples taken from the rising main to No.3 borehole and the tap at the Council Offices, on the 29th June and the 24th August, respectively, were reported upon as follows:-

Rising Main - No. 3 Borehole

Chemical Results
in Parts per Million

Appearance	Faint opalescence with particles. Deposition of iron hydroxide on keeping.							
Turbidity	3	increasing to 12						
Colour								Nil
Odour								Nil
pH								6.8
Free Carbon Dioxide								70
Electric Conductivity								620
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C								415
Chlorine present as Chloride								15
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate								235
Hardness: Total								360
Carbonate								235
Non-Carbonate								125
Nitrate Nitrogen								3.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01							
Ammoniacal Nitrogen								0.000
Oxygen absorbed								0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen								0.000
Residual Chlorine
Metals: Iron								1.0
Manganese								0.07
Zinc, Copper & Lead								Absent

"This sample shows opalescence and deposit due to the presence of iron and it also carried a minute trace of manganese. The water is on the acid side of neutrality and has a high content of free carbon dioxide: from the aspect of corrosive activity reduction in this content of free carbon dioxide is required. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and is of very satisfactory organic quality.

"Subject to the removal of iron and reduction of free carbon dioxide the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes as judged from the aspect of the chemical analysis."

Tap - Council Offices

Chemical Results
in Parts per Million

Appearance	Clear and bright
Turbidity	Nil
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	14
Electric Conductivity	620
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	410
Chlorine present as Chloride	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	230
Hardness: Total	350
Carbonate	230
Non-Carbonate	120
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.7
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Absent

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of the highest standard of organic quality.

"From the aspect of the chemical analysis, these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The result of a sample, taken by an Inspector of the Great Ouse River Board, showed that the effluent from the disposal works was unsatisfactory.

As in previous years, little or no works of maintenance or improvement were carried out to the disposal works at Old Linslade. This was due in the main to the impending scheme for the construction of new disposal works to be used jointly with Leighton Buzzard.

Following the decision to make a Compulsory Purchase Order for the site of the new works, the Consulting Engineers' proposals were submitted to the Ministry. A Public Inquiry into both matters was still awaited at the end of the year.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Routine house and trade refuse collection was carried out. Labour problems, increases in residential development and transport difficulties, occasionally made it impossible to maintain the desired weekly collection.

Following the abandonment of Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council's Vandyke Road tip, temporary arrangements were made for the joint use of a tip leased by the Luton Rural District Council. Lengthy and numerous investigations were carried out in both Linslade and Leighton Buzzard to find suitable alternative sites. Whilst recognising the disadvantages, it was eventually decided that the best prospects lay in the use of a site at Old Linslade.

£50 was realised from the sale of two loads of waste paper. In October the shed used for storage of the waste paper was completely destroyed by fire and collection ceased.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, river and streams within the Urban District revealed one or two cases of pollution and appropriate action was taken.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are, unfortunately, no suitable swimming facilities for the public within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was not used during the year.

7. DETAILS OF VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Nuisances and complaints	10
Nuisances abated	Nil
Infectious diseases	10
Water tests applied to drains	36
Smoke tests applied to drains	Nil
Works in progress	116
Sewerage	23
Water supplies	52
Water samples	125
Milk samples	16
Ice cream samples	Nil
Factories	2
Public Conveniences	9
Housing	66
Meat inspection etc.	79
Petroleum Regulations	25
Smoke abatement	Nil
Miscellaneous visits	274

(D) H O U S I N G

8 new Council dwellings on Mentmore Road Housing site were occupied during the year. These consisted of 6 houses and 2 bungalows. At the end of the year 15 dwellings were in course of construction on this site.

3 dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year.

258 Council houses and 217 private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Inspection of district

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	1
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.. ..	Nil
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	1
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	Nil
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
The number of demolition or closing orders made	1
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil
The number of houses demolished	Nil

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC

1. GENERAL

34 complaints were dealt with during the year and 9 informal notices were served.

2. FACTORIES ACT 1937

Two inspections of factories were made, one concerned the provision of suitable sanitary accommodation, the other was with regard to the issue of a certificate of escape in case of fire.

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Visits were made as follows:-

Dwelling houses	39
Business premises	2
Agricultural premises	-
Local Authority premises, etc.	4

Sewer inspections were made, and treatment carried out where infestations were noted.

(F) MEAT & OTHER FOODS, FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES, ETC

Dairies	4
Registered premises, Sec. 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.	18
Licensed premises	12
Confectionery, Grocery and Greengrocery	16
Butchers.. .. .	3
Cafes and canteens	3
Bakeries	1
Miscellaneous food premises	3
	<hr/>
	60
	<hr/>

Total number of visits made during the year 9

2. MILK AND DAIRIES

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

16 samples were taken from retailers distributing milk in the district. All except one were satisfactory

3. SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The slaughterhouse in Ship Road was used throughout the year. In October the licence was surrendered and reissued to a new licensee.

Regulations controlling cruelty and hygiene in slaughterhouses came into operation on 1st January. At an informal discussion with the Public Health Committee the licensee agreed to carry out all the necessary works to comply with the regulations.

5. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	46	Nil	11	434	155
Number inspected	46	Nil	11	434	155
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	Nil	Nil	35	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.3%	Nil	9.0%	8.0%	7.7%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.6%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses were slaughtered.

642 lbs of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned.

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of 24 lbs 8 ozs of other foods.

(G) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

An epidemic of measles was carried on from 1958. It was fairly general throughout the country.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Whooping Cough	2	4
Scarlet Fever	22	4
Measles	30	68
Pneumonia	28	17
Dysentery	8	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	Nil	2

3. CANCER

There were 6 deaths from cancer during the year compared with 8 in 1958.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis. 2 cases were notified 1 of which was a transfer into the district.

D.H. WALDRON

Medical Officer of Health.

W. MEREDITH

Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	2	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). . . .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	28	2	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	All other defects
Defects found	Nil	Nil
Defects remedied	1	Nil
Referred to H.M. Inspector. .	Nil	Nil
Referred by H.M. Inspector. .	Nil	Nil
Prosecutions instituted . . .	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - (Sections 110 and 111)

There were no outworkers in the district.

